ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2016 Grazing Season
(3/01/2016-2/28/2017)

Reserve Ranger District
Gila National Forest

Govina Allotment

Agreed To By: Don Jones Date: 1/21/2016

Y Canyon Ranch LLC, *Permittees*

Approved By: John D. Pierson Date: 1/25/2016

John D. Pierson, *District Ranger*

2016 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

Allotment: Govina
Permittee: Y Canyon Ranch LLC
Permit Number: 61192

Permitted Use:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Y Canyon LLC	105 Cow/Calf	Term	3/01-2/28

1. **Authorization:** Authorized to graze the following in 2016:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Y Canyon LLC	105 Cow/Calf	Term	3/01-2/28

Counting Livestock: The standard for counting livestock on an allotment is as follows:

a. All cattle six (6) months of age or older **at the time of entering** the National Forest **and all weaned** animals regardless of age will be counted against the permitted numbers on the allotment and charged for at the current rate.

Nonuse: Application for credit or refund must be made in "**writing**" and "**in advance**" by the permittee to the District Ranger using Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application). When it is not possible to be timely in getting to the Ranger District Office, the permittee may phone in a request for refund or credit. The permittee will then complete Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application) at the next visit to the Reserve Ranger District Office. **Note**: Credit or refund applications will not be processed unless value is $100.00 or more and District personnel have been notified either in advance or at the time livestock are removed from NFS Lands.

Bovine Trichinosis: Virgin bulls not exposed to breeding are exempt from testing if under 12 months of age. As of 2/26/10, bulls 12 months of age and older are required to have a negative trich test within 30 days prior to entry. **A signed affidavit from the owner for the virgin status of bulls 12 TO 24 months of age is no longer applicable.** Non-virgin Breeding age Bulls must be tested negative prior to import into New Mexico. Non-virgin Breeding age Bulls sold within the state of New Mexico must be tested negative within 30 days prior to change of ownership. Please contact the New Mexico Livestock Board for more details.

2. **Management**: Govina 2016 Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	**Time Frame**
Govina North	3/01-5/31
John Kerr	6/01-10/31
Govina North	11/01-2/28
SU, Todd Cieniga and Tularosa Pasture/Traps	**As needed for gathering, holding and calving only

*Livestock are not authorized in riparian exclosures on the Tularosa River. Please ensure that fences are maintained to prevent livestock access.

Please notify us of cattle movements onto and off the allotment, as well as refinements that may be needed to enhance the management system. If you identify the need to differ from these management systems by more than 15 days, please contact this office at least two weeks in advance so that the District has time to conduct monitoring and assess your request.

3. **Utilization Standards and Monitoring:**
Per the 12/13/1999 Govina Allotment Decision Notice, the maximum allowable use level set for the Govina Allotment is **35%** for dormant and growing season grazing of grass species. The maximum allowable riparian utilization is no more than **20%** of woody plant species/seedlings heavily hedged. Monitoring will be conducted within two weeks before to two weeks after the date cattle are scheduled to leave a pasture. Key areas and restricted areas will be monitored to determine actual grazing use/seasonal use by livestock/wildlife. At least 75% of the monitoring sites must have utilization rates less than or equal to the allowable use guideline, to be considered to meet the overall utilization requirement. If utilization is found to exceed 60% at any time during the use period on any one key area monitoring site, livestock must be removed from the pasture or allotment. If the utilization exceeds the allowable use guideline for 2 consecutive years or any 3 years in a 10 year period, management changes (permit reduction, grazing period reduction livestock class change, additional range developments, etc.) will be instituted.

*The following dates have been tentatively scheduled for a combination of annual monitoring as well as range analysis long term monitoring on the allotment. You are highly encouraged and invited to participate in monitoring with district personnel and/or on your own.

Pasture	**Monitoring date**
Govina North (Wagon)	5/17/2016
John Kerr	11/15/2016
Govina, SU, Todd Cieniga and Tularosa	As Needed

4. **Forage Growth and Water Availability:**
   Per Part 2, clause 8(c) of your Term Grazing Permit, if forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2016 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary.

5. **Salt and Supplement Policy**
   Supplemental feeding of livestock is allowed (to strategically manage livestock distribution and forage use) as follows:
   a) Place supplements on previously disturbed areas (i.e., borrow pits) or natural bedrock outcrops when possible (supplement sites).
   b) Locate supplement sites 0.25 mile or more from waters and key areas except where prior written permission has been obtained from District Ranger.
   c) Locate supplement sites where forage is abundant and utilized less than average.
   d) Limit supplement types to non energy feeds such as salt, protein and mineral blocks.
   e) Use products that prevent the spread of noxious weeds, no feeding of hay on National Forest System Lands.

6. **Grazing Restriction:**
   The Govina allotment includes Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Center's (PAC). In these PAC's the following activities are restricted during the breeding season (March 1-August 31): livestock concentrations or trailing, fence construction, and livestock salting. Routine maintenance of range improvements is allowed.

7. **Range Improvements:**
   All assigned range developments identified in your Term Grazing Permit must be maintained to a functional status.

   Advance planning is needed for any range improvement reconstruction or replacement, including fences and water systems to evaluate the need for any additional surveys. General maintenance/repair is excluded. Advance planning is also needed for authorized stock tank cleaning so surveys can be scheduled accordingly. Please contact the District in advance if you are proposing any of this type of work.

   Please protect natural springs and areas with riparian type vegetation. Drainage bottoms, creeks, springs, and cienegas, where water is available, are most susceptible to livestock concentrations.

   The following range improvements were discussed and planned for this grazing season:

   1. Permittee would like to evaluate G.C. #9 Tank (6495) – location and NEPA.
   2. A metal swing gate or walk through gate is needed between John Kerr Peak Pasture and Govina Pasture along fence #6541.
   3. All riparian exclosure fences along the Tularosa River need maintained to exclude livestock.

8. **The Govina Allotment Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)** are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 3, Section 8. The AOI complies with the standards and guidelines found 12/13/1999 Govina Allotment Decision Notice, the 10/20/2004 Allotment Management Plan and in the Gila National Forest Plan. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act on-going grazing consultation for the allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.